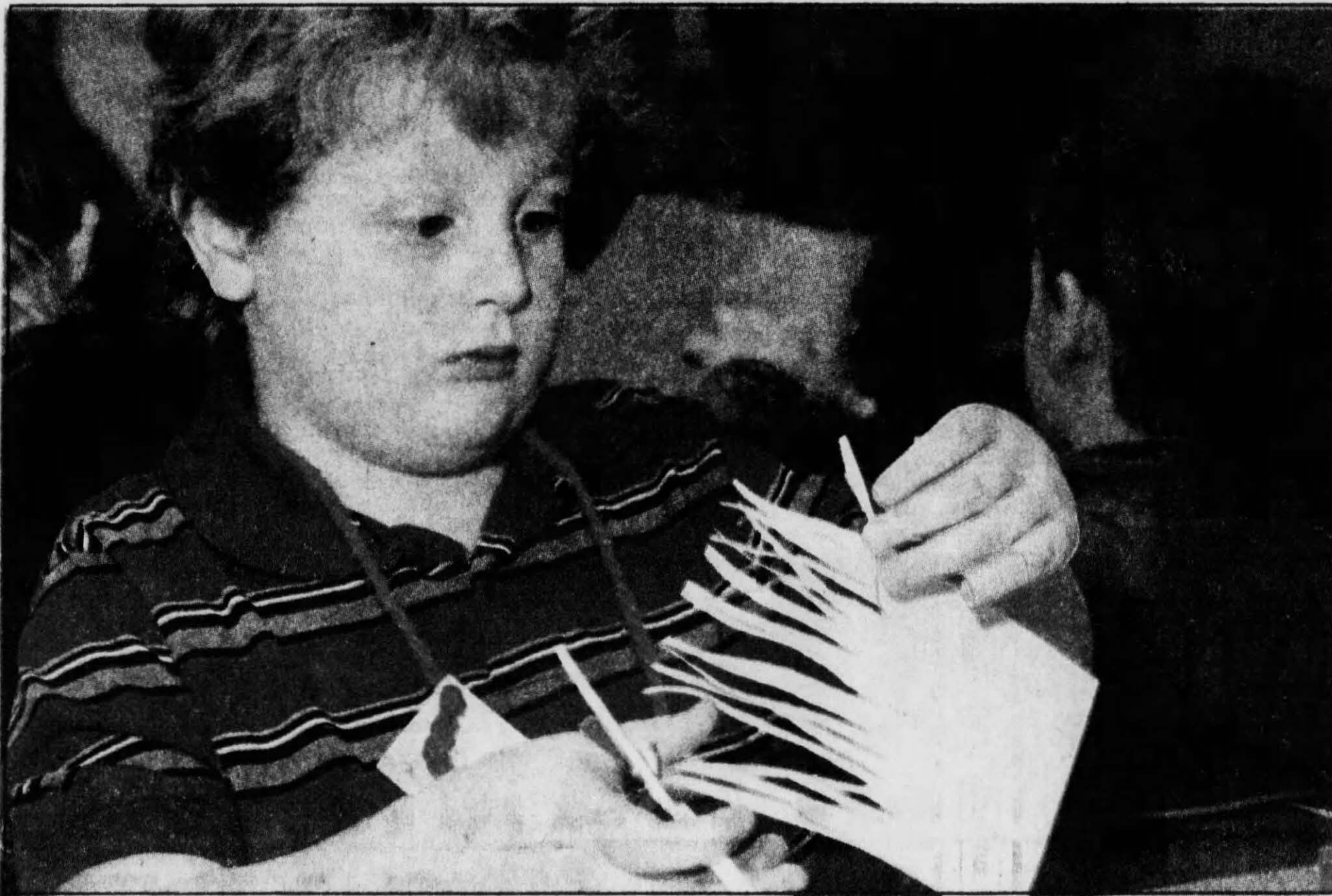


This week's community profile: Navarino



School project: Brian Barkhaus, 6, works on a kindergarten art project at Navarino Grade School in Navarino. The school is part of the Bonduel School District.

It's 'the heart of everything'

By Kathleen McGillis

Press-Gazette

NAVARINO — Residents describe this Shawano County community as quiet.

But how many places of its size boast:

- Exercise classes for senior citizens and summer youth programs.

- Certified volunteer firefighters.
- Organization of a fifth annual one-day festival that drew 500 to 600 people this year.

Press-Gazette photos by Sandee Gerbers

"Navarino's in the middle of nowhere but the heart of everything," said Sister Judith Miller, St. Lawrence Catholic Church parish director.

A community survey three years ago set the stage for much of the activity in Navarino, which is on Wisconsin 156, 25 miles west of Green Bay.

"We like to think it's a unique program in a unique community," fire department administrative officer Earl Holzer said.

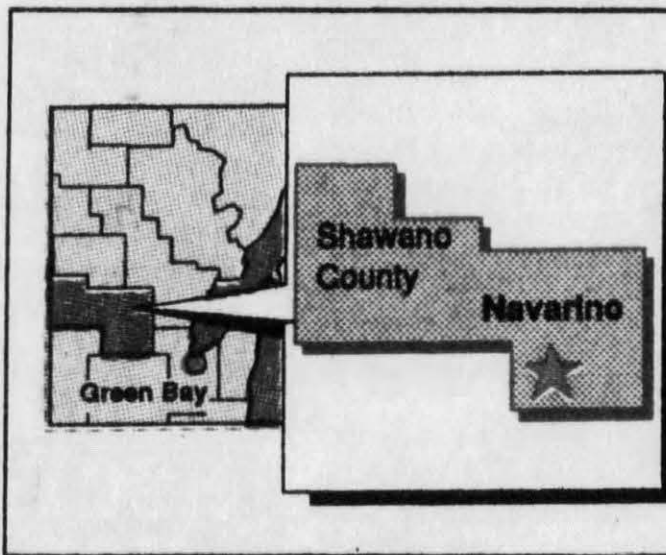
"It's nice to have people who say, 'Yes, I'll get involved,'" said Holzer, Route 1, Shiocton.

The Bonduel School District's Navarino Grade School, St. Lawrence Church, Navarino Agra Center, Walt's Bar and the Bridgewater Tap are in Navarino.

While residents work to improve their community, the past is not forgotten.

Marge Wilber and Phyllis Krull just completed a 152-page history of the town of Navarino.

"It used to be a real busy bustling community," said Wilber, an area resident for 45 years.



The Navarino file

- **Population:** About 200.
- **Cheers:** Josie and Walt Anvelink opened Walt's Bar in 1930. Josie, 80, Route 1, Bonduel, still operates the bar, which is open on weekends.
- **Better early than never:** In 1988, the community got ready to celebrate its 125th anniversary and even printed T-shirts. Problem: "They really were only 114 years old," local history buff Marge Wilber says. Navarino was founded by Truman Hilliker in 1874.

Research showed Navarino once included four or five stores, a hotel, bank and restaurant, said Wilber, Route 1, Bonduel.

"I like it here because it's small and friendly," said Nancy Carpenter, 21-year veteran bookkeeper at the Agra Center, Route 1, Bonduel.

She and her husband moved to the community in 1962. Carpenter remembers the kindness bestowed after her husband died in the early 1980s.

"Everybody was just great. The kids came over to help out," she said.

About 145 students attend Navarino School, Route 1, Bonduel.

"It is unique compared to many other schools," said school building manager Karl Prien. Parents help if problems surface, he said, adding that teachers see or make contact with every student's parents at parent-teacher conferences.

Miller is a relative newcomer to Navarino, having arrived in 1987, and one of two women parish directors in the Green

Bay Diocese.

"There's a lot of pride in the community. Traditional family values are still held and highly put into practice here," said Miller, Route 1, Bonduel.

An annual highlight is Navarino Days, held during the second or third week of July. It's set for July 18 next year.

The 1991 version featured a 75-minute parade, sky divers, 25-cent children's games, a raffle, a Little League baseball game and baseball game featuring the Navarino Rangers, Holzer said.

Had Navarino Days been around before 1920, they might have been known as Galesburg Days. No one knows why the name was changed or how the town originally got that name, Wilber said.

Green Bay originally was named Navarino by logging man Daniel Whitney. It was named for a Greek battle, the Battle of Navarino Bay, Wilber said.

■ **Next week:** Egg Harbor in Door County



Church leader: Sister Judith Miller is the director for St. Lawrence Catholic Parish in Navarino.



Knows history: Marge Wilber of Navarino talks about the community's history.